

present:

**NO!ART** of the 1960's

**BORIS LURIE**  
(1924 - 2008)



Boris Lurie  
RFK Center, Spazio SUC, at 1st Floor, Piazza delle Murate, Florence

The Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights in conjunction with the Boris Lurie Art Foundation is proud to present a NO!ART exhibition of Boris Lurie's art of the 1960s. One June 21, the RFK Center's Florence Office will host an opening reception for the exhibition, which includes a survey of Lurie's work represented by 27 pieces.

In her welcome letter to the Boris Lurie exhibition, Kerry Kennedy, President of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights states, "During some of the most tumultuous decades in our history - years that saw governments struck down and rebuilt, and in which cultural understandings of race, ethnicity, gender, and poverty were fundamentally re-shaped by global paradigm shifts - Lurie never let the world forget that when we see human rights violations in front of us, saying 'NO!' is the only acceptable answer."

Lurie was born in Leningrad in 1924, and died in New York in 2008. His family fled the country after Lenin's death and the rise of Stalin, settling in Riga, Latvia. Boris Lurie attended German-speaking schools until the Nazis forced him and his family into concentration camps. From 1941-1945, Lurie and his father were moved to various concentration camps, including, Stutthof and Buchenwald. His grandmother, mother, and sister, were executed by the Nazis amid the 1941 massacre at Rumbula, a seaside district near Riga. Lurie's experience as a young adult in the concentration camps deeply affected both his view of the world and the direction his art would take.

Subsequent to their liberation by Stalin's troops, Lurie and his father were liberated and came to America. Lurie had shown an interest in art from an early age and in New York he worked on his own, creating and developing

**Press Release**



**LE  
MURATE**

Title of the exhibition:  
NO!ART of the 1960's  
BORIS LURIE (1924-  
2008)

Place:  
Robert F. Kennedy  
Center for Justice &  
Human Rights  
Spazio SUC, at 1st Floor,  
Piazza delle Murate,  
Florence - Italy

Dates:  
June 8-July 31, 2012

as an artist. It was during this time in New York that he met many other artists, intellectuals, and like-minded individuals. Lurie had his inaugural show in Milan at the Arturo Schwarz Gallery more than 50 years ago. That show was condemned, praised, reviewed, and discussed, and it made an imprint on the avant-garde anti-establishment movement. Upon his return to New York, he organized the Doom Show at the March Gallery, located in a neighborhood filled with young artists new to the city. Gertrude Stein then moved the exhibition to a gallery uptown, which was considered the established artist section.

Curator John Wronoski writes, "Lurie's subjects were always implicitly historically, socially, and politically informed, but in 1959, when he befriended Sam Goodman and Stanley Fisher, his work became more aggressive and would be infused with social criticism. They founded the NO!ART Movement as a reaction against what they viewed as the debased avant-garde of Abstract Expressionism and its social and political dis-engagement, a resistance that would become all the more strident with the rise of Pop Art. NO!ART insisted that art again address the real world. NO!ART called for an art dealing with difficult truths, such as imperialism, racism, sexism, consumerism, and nuclear proliferation, and leading to social action."

The NO!ART exhibition is open to the public at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights at Le Murate in Piazza delle Murate, Florence, Italy, from June 8 to July 31, 2012.

Opening Reception:  
Thursday, June 21, 2012  
at 5 p.m.

Hours:  
The exhibition is free  
and open to the public  
from 12 to 12 midnight  
Monday-Sunday  
Free admission

ROBERT F. KENNEDY  
CENTER FOR JUSTICE  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
Spazio SUC, 1st Floor,  
Piazza delle Murate -  
50122 Florence - Italy

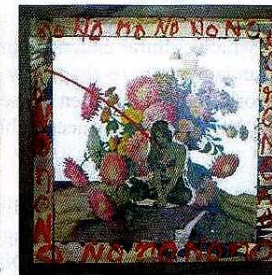
Contact:  
Meaghan Baron  
(baron@rfkcenter.org)

Press-office:  
Propaganda Mordini press:  
tel. +39 342 5829365  
propaganda.mordini@gmail.com  
propaganda-press.blogspot.it



01.  
Works captions:

01: Boris Lurie: "No-Disco", 1962 NO-Record, 1962  
Vinyl with oil mounted on board, 35.56 x 35.56 cm



02

02: Boris Lurie: "NO" (with Pinup and Flowers), 1962  
Collage on masonite and Flowers, 4.6 x 80 cm